IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Original) In a vehicle comprising a first device and a second device and an active network communicatively coupling the first device and the second device, wherein the active network is configured to provide a plurality of communication paths between the first device and the second device, and wherein a communication path of the plurality of communication paths includes a loop.
- 2. (Original) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the active network comprises a plurality of active network elements coupled by connection media.
- 3. (Previously Presented) The vehicle of claim 2, wherein at least one of the active network elements comprises a switch.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The vehicle of claim 2, wherein at least one of the active network elements comprises a bridge.
- (Previously Presented) The vehicle of claim 2, wherein at least one of the active network elements comprises a router.
- 6. (Original) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the active network is a packet data network.

- 7. (Original) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the loop couples a first active network element of the plurality of active network elements to a second active network element of the plurality of active network elements.
- 8. (Original) The vehicle of claim 7, wherein the loop has a loop data rate different than a path data rate of the communication paths.
- 9. (Original) The vehicle of claim 7, wherein the loop comprises an active network element.
- 10. (Original) The vehicle of claim 7, wherein the loop comprises a plurality of active network elements.
- 11. (Original) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the loop connects the first device and the second device.
- 12. (Original) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the active network comprises a multi-drop topology.
- 13. (Original) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the active network comprises a ring topology.

- 14. (Previously Presented) A vehicle communication network comprising: an active network comprising a plurality of network elements coupled by a plurality of communication links joining the network elements, the plurality of communication links being arranged to communicate data packets between the network elements; a vehicle including the active network; a first device; and a second device, wherein the first device and the second device are communicatively coupled by the active network; wherein a first network element and a second network element are coupled with a communication link using a first network protocol, the second network element coupled to another network element different from the first network element with a communication link using a second network protocol.
- 15. (Previously Presented) The vehicle communication network of claim 14, wherein at least one of the network elements comprises an element selected from the group of elements consisting of a switch, bridge, and router.
- 16. (Previously Presented) The vehicle communication network of claim 14, wherein at least one of the first, and second, network protocols are specified in accordance with a shared-access bus protocol.
- 17. (Previously Presented) The vehicle communication network of claim 14, wherein at least one of the first, and second network protocols is not a shared-access bus protocol.

- 18. (Previously Presented) The vehicle communication network of claim 14, wherein at least one of the protocols comprises one of CAN, LIN, J1850, TTP, Flexray and MOST bus protocols.
- 19. (Currently Amended) The vehicle <u>communication network</u> of claim 14, wherein one of the first network element and second network element is coupled to a communication loop.
- 20. (Currently Amended) The vehicle <u>communication network</u> of claim 19, wherein the communication loop couples the first network element to the second network element and wherein the first network protocol is a loop network protocol.
- 21. (Currently Amended) The vehicle <u>communication network</u> of claim 20, wherein the loop network protocol uses a data rate different than one of the and the second network protocols.
- 22. (Currently Amended) The vehicle <u>communication network</u> of claim 19, wherein the communication loop connects the first device and the second device.